



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species, or successful restoration
well in progress by the year 2015*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASMFC Releases Atlantic Herring PID for Public Comment *States Schedule Hearings for February*

Washington, DC – The Commission's Atlantic Herring Section approved the Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for public review and comment. Initially developed in response to increased effort in the inshore Gulf of Maine component of the stock complex, the PID has expanded to address the implementation of a limited access program for all management areas. Additionally, the PID identifies maximum sustainable yield, management area boundaries, spawning area restrictions, internal waters processing, fixed gear fisheries, as well as several other issues for public comment. While many of the PID topics are similar to the New England Fishery Management Council's (NEFMC) scoping document for Amendment 1 to the federal FMP, the Commission is specifically seeking input on the management of Atlantic herring in state waters.

The States of ME, NH, MA, RI, CT and NJ have scheduled the dates and times of their public meetings. The specific details follow.

Maine Department of Marine Resources

February 9, 2004; 6:00PM
Samoset Resort, Penobscot Bay Room
220 Warrenton Avenue
Rockport, Maine
Contact: Lewis Flagg at (207)624-6548

February 11, 2004; 6:00PM
Scarborough Town Hall
Council Chambers B
259 US Route 1
Scarborough, Maine
Contact: Lewis Flagg at (207)624-6548

February 12, 2004; 6:00PM
Perry Municipal Building
US Route 1
Perry, Maine
Contact: Lewis Flagg at (207)624-6548

New Hampshire Fish & Game

February 17, 2004; 7:00 PM
Location to be determined
Contact: John Nelson at (603)868-1095

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

February 18, 2004; PM
Holiday Inn – Dedham
55 Ariadne Road
Dedham, Massachusetts
Contact: Melanie Griffin at (617)626-1528

Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife

February 12, 2004; 6:00 PM
URI Narragansett Bay Campus
Corless Auditorium
South Ferry Road
Narragansett, Rhode Island
Contact: Najih Lazar at (401)423-1926

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection

February 11, 2004; 7:00 PM

DEP Marine Headquarters

333 Ferry Road

Old Lyme, Connecticut

Contact: David Simpson at (860)434-6043

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

February 10, 2004; 7:00 PM

Nacote Creek Research Station

Mile Post 51, Route 9

Port Republic, New Jersey

Contact: Bruce Freeman at (609)633-2408

In addition to approving the PID in December 2003, the Section approved a timeline that brings the Commission's process in sync with the development of the NEFMC's Amendment 1 to the federal FMP. The PID is the first step in the amendment development process. Following the public comment period, the Section will begin drafting Amendment 2 to the Interstate FMP.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID, either through attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Public Input. While public comment will be accepted throughout the entire process, comments on the PID will be accepted until **March 5, 2004**. All comments should be forwarded to Megan Gamble, Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at mgamble@asmfc.org. For more information, please contact Megan Gamble at (202) 289-6400.